

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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### **GOV. EASLEY EXPEDITES AID TO DROUGHT STRICKEN MARSHALL**

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that state officials are expediting permits needed by the town of Marshall in western North Carolina, which is facing a water shortage emergency due to the drought. The 1,300 residents of Marshall get their water from three wells, one of which has gone dry.

“The drought has depleted Marshall’s primary source of water, and I have asked state officials to work with this town and others who need emergency alternate water sources,” Easley said. “Preventing these communities from running out of water is our main concern.”

Since one of Marshall’s three wells ran dry last week, the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources has fast-tracked water quality and public water supply permits the town needs to construct emergency wells and lay pipe to its existing water supply. DENR is also assisting the town in obtaining funds to acquire a permanent water supply from new wells and construct a new elevated water supply tank. DENR officials are also helping Marshall complete its water shortage response plan, and will provide assistance with a water audit and leak detection survey.

According to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor, Marshall, located in Madison County, is one of many communities suffering from exceptional drought, the worst of four drought categories. When the town’s water supply became threatened, town officials instituted mandatory water conservation measures that resulted in a 14 percent water use reduction. With only two wells in operation, the town is pumping water 24 hours a day to maintain a water level in an elevated storage tank necessary to meet the daily demand. Any increase in demand could drastically reduce remaining supply.

Thursday's federal drought map shows 21 counties in the western part of the state in exceptional drought, 16 in extreme drought, 12 in severe drought, 34 counties in moderate drought and the remaining 17 counties abnormally dry. Abnormally dry is not a drought level, but indicates that an area can again face drought conditions without adequate rainfall.

Water conservation continues to be widespread in North Carolina as 5.26 million people, or 77.5 percent of the people who receive water from systems the state tracks, are subject to voluntary or mandatory water use restrictions. For more information on conservation or the drought, go to [www.SaveWaterNC.org](http://www.SaveWaterNC.org).

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